

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-16, 30-38, 41, 42, 47, 48, 50-52, 66-69, and 71-75 are pending as of the issuance of the present Office Action. As a result of the above amendments, claims 31, 32, 41, 72 and 74 have been amended, and no claims have been canceled or added. Therefore, claims 1-3, 5-16, 30-38, 41, 42, 47, 48, 50-52, 66-69, and 71-75 are at issue in this Application.

Double Patenting Rejections

In paragraphs 2-6 of the Office Action, claims 41 and 42 were provisionally rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over certain claims of copending Application Nos. 11/211,319; 10/447,085; and 10/954,827. Applicants traverse these rejections as claims 41 and 42 are patentably distinct from the claims cited by the Examiner. In the interests of advancing prosecution, however, Applicants have submitted Terminal Disclaimers herewith. Applicants submit that claims 41 and 42 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under Section 112

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 41 and 72-75 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended claims 41, 72 and 74 and submit that the amendments address the Examiner's rejections. Applicants have further reviewed claims 73 and 75 and believe that no further amendments are necessary. Applicants submit that claims 41 and 72-75 are in condition for allowance.

Allowed & Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-3, 5-16, 30-38, 66-69 and 71.

In paragraph 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 47, 48 and 50-52 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 47, 48 and 50-52 all depend from independent claim 42. Applicants have addressed the double patenting rejection with respect to claim 42 and submit that claim 42 is in

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allowable form. Accordingly, Applicants also submit that claims 47, 48 and 50-52 are also in allowable form.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that Claims 1-3, 5-16, 30-38, 41, 42, 47, 48, 50-52, 66-69, and 71-75 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request early notice of the same. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions concerning this Reply or if it will expedite the progress of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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